Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217628 ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:JCM APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN L/EA - MRS. VERVILLE

-----059944 121445Z /43

R 121405Z SEP 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN BANK RECORDS

REF: SEOUL 7646

- 1. ON SEPT. 9 ROKG EMBASSY COUNSELOR YOO GAVE POSITION ON BANK RECORDS TO DEPT OFF DIFFERENT THAN THAT REPORTED REFTEL. YOO SAID THAT ROKG WILLING TO COOPERATE AND MAKE AVAILABLE "SELECTED" PORTIONS OF ITS RECORDS, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM SINCE SOME OF THEM INVOLVED CLASSIFIED MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND COMMITTEE COULD NOT BE DEPENDED UPON TO MAINTAIN RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY.
- 2. YOO SAID THAT COMMITTEE WAS UNWILLING TO PROCEED ON THAT BASIS AND WANTED ALL THE BANK RECORDS OF THE EMBASSY FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. YOO CLAIMED COMMITTEE HAD THREATENED EMBASSY WITH ADVERSE PUBLICITY AND RETRIBUTION AGAINST U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROK IF ROKG DID NOT MAKE ALL ITS RECORDS AVAILABLE. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. YOO ALSO SAID THAT WHILE EMBASSY STILL NEGOTIATING WITH THE COMMITTEE, ROKG INTENDED TO TAKE LEGAL ROUTE IN RESISTING COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR ALL ITS RECORDS, TAKING CASE TO INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUSTICE AS VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION, IF COMMITTEE PERSISTS.

4. IN VIEW OF YOO'S REMARKS WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF ROKG POSITION BEFORE DISCUSSION WITH ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF. WE ASSUME THAT ROKG UNDERSTANDS THAT WHILE WE WILLING TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION WITH COMMITTEE STAFF ANY ARRANGEMENTS ON ACCESS TO EMBASSY RECORDS MUST BE WORKED OUT BY ROKG'S LAWYERS DIRECTLY WITH STAFF.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, INVESTIGATIONS, BANK DATA, BANK ACCOUNTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE217628
Document Source: Concept History: Concept H

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: PRMAYHEW:JCM Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770329-1070

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770973/aaaackbh.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 34660548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 SEOUL 7646

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1306434 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: KOREAN BANK RECORDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, KS

To: SEOUL Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/34660548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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